

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 9, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel G. Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. THE GRAND PACIFIC HOTEL Chicago, Thursday, Nov. 9, 1876. My dear Alec:

We arrived here safely this morning at nine, dusty and tired and glad to have a chance to walk around. Just underneath us the large hall is packed with eager men shouting and stamping and hurraing for Tilden or Hayes. Sister and I have just been looking at them over the banisters and such air. They are singing Glory Allelliah just now, I can feel them stamping every now and then when the excitement waxes high. In the streets crowds of eager men gather around, placards containing the news and render the street almost impassable for ladies. Hayes seems at the top just at present.

Sister and I have been to call upon Mr. and Mrs. Hammond. I am disappointed in Chicago, the rebuilt part of the city already looks as old as carr European town, such damage has the smoke and soot done. The streets are worse than those around Fanuil Hall. The sidewalks are so queer, mostly three feet above the driveway and are ascended by dilapidated wooden steps little distances apart. The whole city so far as I have been has such a disagreeable unfinished look, the streets where the fine houses are, are grass grown along the sides and the wooden sidewalks here and there look shiftless. But the few fine buildings are really fine and when Chicago gets settled down the streets kept clean and rubbish cleared away it will look a fine old world city. Mr. Hgatsberg ? arrived this morning, but was out when we called. Mr. Hammond seemed well and Mrs. Hammond looked very sweet. What I saw of the inside of the house I don't fancy, the outside is very pretty. 2 Mr. Hammond and another gentleman devoted themselves to me and I had a very nice time.

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What an immense hotel this is, I never in all my life was in such a large building. They have breakfast in one immense hall as big as four or five of Parker's and twice as high, and dinner in another. How large this latter is I know not for we have not yet had dinner. I wish we were going to do so now for I am tremendously hungry.

The noise down-stairs has not stopped yet. I wonder if there is as much excitement in Boston as there is here. Boston raises in my estimation I have not seen one place to compare with it. Well perhaps it is not fair for all we saw of Cleveland were numberless lights and an immense depot, and a long stretch of white surf breaking against the railway embankment. Such a pretty sight as it was, but do you know it frightened me. I have never recovered from the effects of that bath in Nantucket.

What are you doing dear, I can hardly wait all that long time until we reach the Pacific before I can hear from you. I want so much to know how your work is getting on, if the experiments between the observatory and your rooms are successful, how you are getting on in your teaching, if your patents are safely off, if your arrangements with Boncicault has come to a satisfactory conclusion. I hope you take good care of yourself and don't get too tired. You know it would spoil my pleasure if you were ill.

Your little thing, I can't spell the word is exquisite and has grown very precious to me. Thank you ever so much for it.

With very much love, Ever your, Mabel. "My Country 'tis of Thee" they are singing now.